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I attended the National Day reception at the USSR Embassy, at 13 Kensington Palace Gardens. Many of my diplomatic colleagues were there. There were quantities of food, but to the disappointment of some guests, no caviar. The atmosphere was friendly and gay. On such occasions the Russians are solicitous hosts

We dined tonight with Sir Michael and Lady Adeane, at St. James's Palace. He is the Queen's Private Secretary. Lord and Lady Euston, Lady Rose Baring, Duncan Sandys and his wife, were the other guests. After an excellent dinner, starred by bottles of a remarkable 1949 claret, we went on to Buckingham Palace for the Queen's annual Diplomatic Reception. 90 members of our staff attended, but only 19, including E and myself, were presented. The Queen, the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Gloucester, the Princess Royal, Princess Alexandra, and Princess Alice were taken down our front line by me or by the Minister, to introduce our people. The Queen, the Queen Mother, [redacted] the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Alexandra asked many questions, and conveyed the impression of being really interested in the answers. How they can keep up their spirits under such circumstances, when they must do this for hundreds of people during the course of the evening, is a tribute to their stamina, discipline, and good nature. The spectacle is one of the most beautiful ones imaginable. All the rooms were thronged, but not overcrowded. I had a short talk with the Prime Minister, and Alec Home, as well as with Anthony Eden, who looked especially handsome in his Knight of the G[redacted]er regalia. It was all great fun.

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